



Sequoia Charter School
Course Syllabus – Elements of Science

Course Information

Period: 1 / 3 / 5

Class Location: BLDG 3 Room 303

E-Mail: sbentson@edkey.com

Teacher Information

Name: Steven Bentson

Phone: 480-649-7737 ext. 10303

Office Hours: Before and after school

Course Description:

Students in Elements of Science will learn the foundational principles of chemistry, physics, biology, and earth science. Scientific experimentation and analysis will also be practiced through hands-on lab projects and experiments. There will be practice for scientific inquiry, discourse, and evaluation of evidence to develop conceptual graphical representations. This course will prepare students for future scientific courses in high school and college.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete Elements of Science will be competent in the following areas:

- Making observation, to ask questions, to formulate hypothesis, and to design experiments to answer questions
- Presenting scientific information in an academic/professional style designed to be read and critiqued by fellow scientists
- Understanding the principles of each branch of science
- Using foundational scientific knowledge to understand complex concepts and unknown situations

Attendance

Attendance is vital to academic success. We expect students to attend school every day so that they will have the greatest opportunity to have a successful academic year. A student who has 10 absences (excused or unexcused) from a class within a semester may be withdrawn from the class. The student may lose the credit for that class, but may recover the credit by taking the class on-line or in a traditional class setting the following school year.

Online Grade Book

Did you know that you can access your child's grades and assignments? Parents and students should monitor grades regularly by accessing the online grade book, Powerschool. Parents will be assigned a confidential access code to Power School that will allow them to see your child's grades, assignments, and attendance in each class. To take advantage of this powerful tool, parents should go to <http://edkey.powerschool.com> and enter their ID and password. You can receive your ID and password from the front office.

Classroom Expectations

1. Arrive to class on time and be seated quietly.
2. Begin working on bell work.
3. No food or drinks (with the exception of water) is allowed in the classroom.
4. No personal grooming during class.
5. No one leaves the classroom once the period starts. This does not pertain to emergency situations
6. Each student is responsible for cleaning up his/her work area each class period.
7. Students are expected to wear appropriate safety attire on designated lab days.
8. No electronic devices are to be used in class unless instructor gives permission for instructional purposes.

Grades and Scale

Below 60% is considered "Incomplete." An "incomplete" signifies that a student has not mastered the essential standards or requirements of the course and must re-take it.

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
0% - 59%	F

Weight scale

- Class participation / Attendance 5%
- Homework: 5%
- Projects / labs: 30%
- Classwork: 20%
- Quizzes /Test: 25%
- Final Exam: 20%

Important: If you are having trouble with this class, seek help immediately. If you wait till the end of the marking period, it most likely will be TOO LATE to receive the proper amount of help to influence your grade. PLEASE ask questions. Do not feel embarrassed. I cannot stress this enough!

Classroom Participation / attendance:

- ***Bell work:*** With the exception of Wednesday, students are considered “present” when daily bell work is completed. These assignments are graded by fulfilling two requirements: students have written the question and have demonstrated attempt to answer the question.
- ***Binder and Materials:*** Students cannot achieve success without possessing the necessary materials for this course. Students are expected to bring a binder (expectations outlined under **Class Requirements**) and writing utensils

Homework: Assignments will be reviewing information covered in class. Students are expected to complete each assignment every night as these will help re-implement covered topics in class, prepare students for the next day's materials, and aid in studying for exams.

Projects / Labs: Students in this course are expected to complete projects and lab based upon scientific standards. The expectations of each corresponding project/lab will be outlined and given at least two weeks prior to due dates.

Classwork: Assignments will vary depending on the concepts covered each day. This encompasses individual and group work that will reinforce daily lessons and allow application of concepts.

Quizzes / Tests:

- **Quizzes:** We will be having quizzes **EVERY FRIDAY** (with the exception of the week we have an exam). These quizzes will be approximately 10 questions. Questions may range from multiple-choice, fill in the blank, or short-ended questions. There are no make-up quizzes. However, the lowest two scores will be dropped.
- **Exams:** There will be approximately 2 exams per quarter. Each exam will not be cumulative, but will cover material from the previous exam up to the exam date. There will be exam reviews the day before each exam. It is in the student's best interest to pay attention to these reviews as the concepts covered on the exam will be discussed. Questions will be combinations of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and short-ended questions.

Make-up / Late Work

Students are allowed the same number of days for the student's excused absences. Late work will be accepted up until **2 weeks** for up to **70%**. Late work will NOT be accepted after two weeks of the deadline. Students will receive an automatic **40%** for all missing assignments.

Tardy

Students are encouraged and expected to be in their class on time. A tardy is defined as "not being in an assigned seat when the bell rings". If a student is tardy six or more times in a five-week period, he/she will be assigned to Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) by administration.

Suspensions

If a student is suspended, he/she may not make up the 'day to day' assignments. However, if there is a major test, project, or paper due during the suspension the student must still make up those assignments. Sequoia's late/missing work policy will be upheld for these assignments as well.

- Note: A student has the equal amount of days suspended to complete all missing assignments.

Class Requirements

Emails:

I will do my best to respond within **24 business hours**. If you e-mail me on Friday or the weekend, I may not see your email/respond until Monday. When emailing me, please be sure to include the following:

- Subject line: Class/Period/Name (e.g. Biology/Period 3/Jane Smith)
- Use Standard Salutation:
 - Good afternoon Mr. Bentson, Hope you are well, etc.
 - Do NOT be rude
- Use a Standard Closing:

- “Best”, “Sincerely”, “Thank you”, Have a good day, etc., or just sign your name
- Please make sure to put your name

If your e-mail is unprofessional/inappropriate, I will ask you to revise and resubmit. If your email is rude, I will not respond and administrative action may be taken.

Materials:

- 2” Binder with 6 labeled tabs:
 - Bell work
 - Class Notes
 - Class Activities
 - Labs
 - Homework
 - Quizzes/Exams
- Writing utensils
- Highlighters

Please go over this with your parents/guardians, as the student and the parent/guardian are required to sign and return before **August 12, 2017**.

The signature portion will be counted as a homework assignment, and there will be a quiz over the material.

-----Please cut along the line and return-----

My student _____ has gone through the Syllabus for General Science (Elements of Science). We are both aware of the expectations of the class.

Please Print Parent Name _____

Parent preferred contact method: Email Phone

- Email address: _____
- Phone number: _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature